United Nations A/53/715

General Assembly

Distr.: General
30 November 1998

Original: English

Fifty-third session
Agenda items 112 and 119

Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Human resources management

Gratis personnel provided by Governments and other entities

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted in response to General Assembly resolution 51/243 of 15 September 1997, in paragraph 6 of which the Secretary-General was requested to report on a quarterly basis on the acceptance of the gratis personnel referred to in paragraph 4 of the resolution, with a view to ensuring compliance with its provisions. In paragraph 12 of the same resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report annually on the use of gratis personnel, indicating, *inter alia*, their nationality, the duration of their service and the functions performed.

2. The present report updates previous quarterly reports.[1] It also contains the annual report for the period 1 October 1997 to 30 September 1998 and updates the previous annual report (A/52/709).

United Nations Office at Nairobi

3. The present report includes data, which were submitted *ex post facto* by the United Nations Office at Nairobi in November 1998 and relate to type II gratis personnel who had been engaged by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in the past and whose engagements were not previously reported. The functions performed by UNEP/United Nations Centre for Human Settlements gratis personnel before 30 September 1998 are reflected in annexes II, III, IV, V and VIII to the present report. Annex VIII also shows that expiry dates of engagements for several gratis personnel exceed the 28 February 1999 deadline set by the General Assembly in its resolution 53/11 of 26 October 1998. Consequently, the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi has been instructed to phase out all proposed United Nations Centre for Human Settlements type II gratis personnel by the end of February 1999.

II. Quarterly report on the acceptance of gratis personnel

4. Paragraph 6 of resolution 51/243, in which a quarterly report was requested on the acceptance of type II gratis personnel (see A/51/688 and Corr.1, paras. 24–40), specified that the purpose of the report was to ensure compliance with the provisions of the resolution. The period covered in the present quarterly report starts on 1 July 1998 and ends on 30 September 1998.

98-37789 (E) 071298

5. Twenty-three new type II gratis personnel commenced service during the reference period, as shown in the table below. Of this total, six gratis personnel completed their duties within the reference period.

6. The Department of Political Affairs accepted gratis personnel for a six-member high level mission sent by the Secretary-General, at the invitation of the Algerian Government, to visit that country and to gather information. The mission was completed and the mission report delivered before the end of the reference period. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations accepted eight military officers to undertake the specialized military tasks indicated in the table below. The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda accepted eight additional investigators to the Deputy Prosecutor's Office to provide specialized expertise that was not available in the Tribunal.

7. At the United Nations Office at Nairobi, the one gratis personnel engaged during the reporting period is the leader of an international team working on the revitalization of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements. For reasons of objectivity, he was brought in from the outside. At the time of publication of the present report, no information is available beyond what is provided in the table below.

8. With the ongoing departure of type II gratis personnel from the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the United Nations Office at Nairobi, the total of type II gratis personnel decreased from 182 as of 30 June 1998 to 134 as of 30 September 1998.

International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda

International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia

9. In section III.B, paragraph 26, of resolution 51/226 of 3 April 1997, the Secretary-General was requested to extend to personnel provided on a non-reimbursable basis the practice of barring such personnel from applying for or being appointed to posts in the Secretariat for a period of six months after the end of their service under non-reimbursable contracts. The International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia experienced a sharp increase in its work volume owing to a sudden increase in the number of detainees and, at the time, employed a number of key gratis personnel, consisting of investigators and attorneys who had developed unique knowledge about the cases being prepared. In the recruitment, the Tribunal requested that an exception be granted for the acceptance of applications without a waiting period. In all other respects, the Tribunal fully complied with United Nations recruitment regulations and all applicants, including those who had formerly served on a non-reimbursable loan basis, were treated as competitive candidates. This initial request by the Prosecutor has been extended for one gratis personnel serving in the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.

10. As indicated in the report of the Secretary-General on human resources management (A/53/342, paras. 91–94), the Secretary-General approved a total of 17 exceptions in the light of the special circumstances reported by the Tribunal, on the condition that the General Assembly be informed of those exceptions. The Tribunal has reported that, at the date of the present report, offers of employment were accepted by 12 of the subject personnel, one offer remains pending, one offer was withdrawn and three gratis personnel have declined acceptance.

III. Annual report on the use of gratis personnel

11. In paragraph 12 of its resolution 51/243, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report annually on the use of gratis personnel, indicating, *inter alia*, their nationality, the duration of their service and the functions performed.

Type I gratis personnel

12. Annex I to the present report provides data on type I gratis personnel who serve under an established regime, including interns, associate experts, technical cooperation experts obtained by non-reimbursable loan and gratis personnel serving with the United Nations Special Commission (see A/51/688/Add.2, para. 4, and A/51/688/Add.3, para. 3). The total for each category as at 30 September 1998 is compared with the total as at 30 September 1997, 31 December 1997, 31 March 1998 and 30 June 1998, as shown in the quarterly reports of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly.

13. Data indicate increasing numbers for interns and associate experts between September 1997 and September 1998. The number of interns fluctuates over time, due to the fact that there are three separate internship programmes per year, each lasting for two to three months.

Type II gratis personnel engaged during the reference period
(1 July to 30 September 1998)

Department/office	*Country of nationality*	*Date of entry into service*	*Functions*	*Expiration date of service*	*Observations*
Department of Political Affairs	Jordan	18 July 1998	At the invitation of the Government of Algeria, the Secretary-General established a panel of eminent persons to visit the country in order to gather information on the situation in Algeria and present a report to him (see press release SG/SM/6623 of 2 July 1998).	8 August 1998	Sensitive political mission, performed by very senior national political leaders, not available in the Secretariat.
	India			8 August 1998	
	United States of America			8 August 1998	
	Portugal			8 August 1998	
	France			8 August 1998	
	Kenya			8 August 1998	
Department of Peacekeeping Operations	Sweden	31 July 1998	Contingent-owned Property Officer	31 December 1998	Military expertise not available in the Secretariat.
	Austria	4 August 1998	Engineer	28 February 1999	
	United Kingdom	1 August 1998	Military Liaison Officer	31 December 1999	
	Singapore	3 August 1998	Engineer	28 February 1999	
	Canada	31 August 1998	Military Information Assistant	28 February 1999	
	Singapore	1 July 1998	Medical Officer	28 February 1999	
	Norway	25 July 1998	Duty Officer	28 February 1999	
	United Kingdom	25 July 1998	Duty Officer	28 February 1999	
International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda	Canada (4)	28 August 1998	Investigators attached to the Deputy Prosecutor's Office	28 February 1998	Specialized investigative expertise not available in the Tribunal
	Canada (3)	29 August 1998		28 February 1998	
	Switzerland	5 September 1998		28 February 1998	
United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)	Norway (1)	1 September 1998	Leader of a team of international experts to make recommendations on the revitalization of the Centre	31 December 1998	Expertise sought outside the Centre for reasons of objectivity

Type II gratis personnel

14. Annex II provides information on type II gratis personnel in service as at 30 September 1998, by department or office, nationality and duration of service. The overall number stands at 134, with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations having the largest proportion (75 per cent) followed by the Tribunals (19 per cent). Thirty-four personnel (25 per cent) served for less than one year, 45 (34 per cent) served between one and two years and 55 (41 per cent) served for more than two years.

15. Annex III shows the evolution of the numbers of type II gratis personnel by department. The totals shown have been adjusted to reflect data on gratis personnel serving with UNEP and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements which had not been reported and confirmed prior to November 1998. The adjusted total number of gratis personnel as at 30 September 1998 (134) shows a decrease compared with the adjusted total as at 30 September 1997 (295). The overall decrease since September 1997 has been 55 per cent. The number of receiving departments decreased from eight on 30 September 1997, to six on 30 September 1998.

16. Annex IV shows the distribution of type II gratis personnel by nationality and duration of service.

17. Annex V provides information on the nature of the functions performed by type II gratis personnel as at 30 September 1998 by department or office, except for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, for which information is provided in annex VI.

18. Annex VII shows numbers of regular staff in the departments/offices where type II gratis personnel performed functions on 30 September 1998.

19. Annex VIII shows all type II gratis personnel reported *post facto* by the United Nations Office at Nairobi in November 1998. This includes information on functions performed by the Office's type II gratis personnel from September 1997 to September 1998 as well as three gratis personnel who reportedly were accepted during the month of October 1998.

Notes

[1] A/52/709 of 4 December 1997 (covering the period from 16 September through 30 September 1997) and Corr.1, A/C.5/52/43 of 10 March 1998 (covering the period from 1 October through 31 December 1997), A/C.5/52/51 of 6 May 1998 (covering the period from 1 January through 31 March 1998) and A/C.5/52/56 (covering the period from 1 April through 30 June 1998).

Abbreviations used in the annexes

DESA	Department of Economic and Social Affairs
DM	Department of Management
DPA	Department of Political Affairs
DPKO	Department of Peacekeeping Operations
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UNCHS	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNOIP	United Nations Office of the Iraq Programme
UNON	United Nations Office at Nairobi
UNOV	United Nations Office at Vienna
UNSCOM	United Nations Special Commission

Annex I

Type I gratis personnel

	Subtype	*Reported on 30 Sept. 1997*	*Reported on 30 Sept. 1998*	*Change Sept. 1997-1998 +/-*
I (a)	Interns	195	214	+19
I (b)	Associate experts	72	115	+43
I (c)	Technical cooperation experts	32	31	-1
I (d)	UNSCOM	109	18	-91
	Total	**408**	**378**	**-30**

Annex II

Type II gratis personnel, by department, nationality and duration of service (as at 30 September 1998)

Department or office	*Country of nationality*	*Total count*	*Duration of contract*		
			Under 1 year	*1 to 2 years*	*2 years or more*
Department of Peacekeeping Operations					
	Argentina	2		X	
	Australia	4		X	
	Australia	1			X
	Austria	2	X		
	Austria	1			X
	Belgium	1		X	
	Belgium	2			X
	Brazil	1	X		
	Brazil	2		X	
	Brazil	5			X
	Canada	1	X		
	Canada	1		X	
	Canada	1			X
	Czech Republic	1		X	
	Denmark	1	X		
	Denmark	1			X
	France	3		X	
	France	5			X
	Germany	1	X		
	Germany	1		X	
	Germany	2			X
	Guatemala	1		X	
	Ireland	1		X	
	Ireland	1			X
	Italy	3		X	
	Italy	5			X
	Namibia	1		X	
	Netherlands	1	X		
	Netherlands	2			X
	New Zealand	1		X	
	Norway	1	X		
	Norway	4			X
	Russian Federation	1		X	
	Russian Federation	2			X
	Singapore	2	X		
	Singapore	2		X	

Department or office	*Country of nationality*	*Total count*	*Duration of contract*		
			Under 1 year	*1 to 2 years*	*2 years or more*
	Slovakia	1		X	
	South Africa	1		X	
	Spain	1	X		
	Spain	1			X
	Sweden	4	X		
	Sweden	1		X	
	Sweden	2			X
	Switzerland	1		X	
	Switzerland	1			X
	Turkey	2		X	
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	3	X		
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	3		X	
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	1			X
	United States of America	5		X	
	United States of America	6			X
	Total	**100**	**18**	**39**	**43**
International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia					
	Denmark	2		X	
	Finland	1			X
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	3	X		
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	1			X
	United States of America	2	X		
	United States of America	1		X	
	United States of America	4			X
	Total	**14**	**5**	**3**	**6**

Department or office	*Country of nationality*	*Total count*	*Duration of contract*		
			Under 1 year	*1 to 2 years*	*2 years or more*
International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda					
	Canada	7	X		
	Denmark	1	X		
	Denmark	1			X
	Germany	1			X
	Netherlands	1	X		
	Switzerland	1	X		
	Total	**12**	**10**	**0**	**2**
Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs					
	Switzerland	1			X
	United States of America	1		X	
	Total	**2**	**0**	**1**	**1**
United Nations Office of the Iraq Programme					
	France	1		X	
	Total	**1**	**0**	**1**	**0**
United Nations Office at Nairobi					
	Belgium	1			X
	France	1		X	
	Germany	1			X
	Norway	1	X		
	Norway	1			X
	Total	**5**	**1**	**1**	**3**
	Grand total	**134**	**34**	**45**	**55**

Annex III

Evolution of the numbers of type II gratis personnel by department over the reporting period

Department or office	*Reported on 30 Sept. 1997*	*Reported on 30 Sept. 1998*	*Change Sept. 1997- 1998 +/-*
DESA	5	0	-5
DM	5	0	-5
DPKO	133	100	-33
International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia	52	14	-38
International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda	8	12	+4
OCHA	84	2	-82
UNOIP	0	1	+1
UNON	7[a]	5	-2
UNOV	1	0	-1
Total	**295**	**134**	**-161**

[a] The number shown for the United Nations Office at Nairobi on 30 September 1997 includes six gratis personnel who were reported for the first time in November 1998.

Annex IV

Type II gratis personnel by nationality and duration of service (as at 30 September 1998)

Country of nationality	Total count	Duration of contract		
		Under 1 year	1 to 2 years	2 years or more
Argentina	2		X	
Australia	4		X	
Australia	1			X
Austria	2	X		
Austria	1			X
Belgium	1		X	
Belgium	3			X
Brazil	1	X		
Brazil	2		X	
Brazil	5			X
Canada	8	X		
Canada	1		X	
Canada	1			X
Czech Republic	1		X	
Denmark	2	X		
Denmark	2		X	
Denmark	2			X
Finland	1			X
France	5		X	
France	5			X
Germany	1	X		
Germany	1		X	
Germany	4			X
Guatemala	1		X	
Ireland	1		X	
Ireland	1			X
Italy	3		X	
Italy	5			X
Namibia	1		X	
Netherlands	2	X		
Netherlands	2			X
New Zealand	1		X	
Norway	2	X		
Norway	5			X
Russian Federation	1		X	
Russian Federation	2			X
Singapore	2	X		
Singapore	2		X	

Country of nationality	*Total count*	*Duration of contract*		
		Under 1 year	*1 to 2 years*	*2 years or more*
Slovakia	1		X	
South Africa	1		X	
Spain	1	X		
Spain	1			X
Sweden	4	X		
Sweden	1		X	
Sweden	2			X
Switzerland	1	X		
Switzerland	1		X	
Switzerland	2			X
Turkey	2		X	
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	6	X		
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	3		X	
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	2			X
United States of America	2	X		
United States of America	7		X	
United States of America	10			X
Total	**134**	**34**	**45**	**55**

Annex V

Functions discharged by type II gratis personnel in service (as at 30 September 1998)

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (2)

One gratis personnel provided policy advice and legal expertise on international humanitarian law. The person's field experience with the International Committee of the Red Cross, particularly in the Middle East, as well as his legal training (application of humanitarian law in Muslim countries) has provided vital expertise to the work of the Office. The person is the only legal expert in the United Nations system with field experience in humanitarian operations.

The second gratis personnel has organized and planned high-level seminars on international cooperation in the use of military and civil defence assets in disaster relief.

Department of Peacekeeping Operations (100)

See detailed annex VI.

International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (14)

One expert video analyst has viewed, indexed and analysed videotapes of material broadcast in the former Yugoslavia during the conflict, to enable investigation and prosecution teams to identify relevant evidence.

Six investigators have been responsible for the planning, organizing and conducting of sensitive field service investigations, using all appropriate and available investigative techniques and resources in accordance with applicable laws, policies and procedures.

Six legal advisers to the Prosecutor assist in the prosecution of persons, especially those in positions of authority and leadership, who were responsible for the most serious violations of international humanitarian law or mass killings.

One detention (security) guard has assisted the commanding officer of the Detention Unit in providing security services for detained persons.

International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (12)

Nine investigators have been responsible for the planning, organizing and conducting of sensitive field service investigations, using all appropriate and available investigative techniques and resources in accordance with applicable laws, policies and procedures.

Three legal officers (two legal officers and one senior legal officer) have provided legal advice and direction to the Target Development Unit regarding criminal law and procedure, the application of international humanitarian law and prosecutorial strategy.

United Nations Office at Nairobi (5)

For UNEP, one database analyst provided specialized technical assistance to the Water Branch, one was retained for the coordination of various activities and workshops, one provided specialized monitoring of developments in various environmental issues and one performed legal advisory functions. One person was accepted to develop recommendations for the revitalization of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) as leader of a team of international experts.

United Nations Office of the Iraq Programme (1)

One high-level procurement specialist has provided the Programme with unique and highly specialized advice and counselling on purchasing and contracting large volumes of goods with very specific modes of delivery (chartering of aircraft and vessels, rations, petroleum, etc.).

Annex VI

Functions discharged by type II gratis personnel in service in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (as at 30 September 1998)

	Number	*Total*
Office of the Under-Secretary-General		
Military Adviser's Office		7
Information Systems Officer	1	
Military Assistant to Military Adviser	1	
Military Personnel Manager	1	
Military Personnel Officer	1	
Personnel Administration officer	1	
Special Affairs Officer	1	
Chief, Military Personnel Administration Unit	1	
Situation Centre		14
Chief Clerk	1	
Duty Officers	10	
Informatics Officer	1	
Information and Research Officers	2	
Office of Operations		5
Military Mission Officers	5	
Office of Planning and Support		
Field Administration and Logistics Division		
Finance Management and Support Service		11
Finance (Claims) Officers	9	
Finance Clerk	1	
Officer-in-Charge (Management Information Unit)	1	
Logistics and Communications Service		28
Air Safety Officer	1	
Air Operations Officers	2	
Communications Officer	1	
Engineering Officers	7	
Officer-in-Charge (Current Operations Unit)	1	
Combat Engineer	1	
Logistics Officers	4	
Movements Control Officers	2	
Sea Lift Officer	1	
Supply Officers	5	
Transport Officers	2	
Desk Officer	1	

	Number	*Total*
Planning Division		
Civilian Police Unit		6
Deputy Civilian Police	1	
Desk Officers	4	
Personnel Officer	1	
Mine Action Service		7
Programme Officers	2	
Demining Officers and Technical Advisers	4	
Information Officer	1	
Medical Support Unit		5
Medical Adviser	1	
Deputy Medical Adviser	1	
Medical Support Officers	2	
Medical Supply Officer	1	
Mission Planning Service		12
Chief of Service	1	
Planning Officers	5	
Mission Development Officer	1	
Chief Clerk	1	
Stand-by Arrangements, Head	1	
Generic Planning, Head	1	
Staff Officer	1	
Administrative Assistant	1	
Training Unit		5
Training Adviser	1	
Training Officers	3	
Instruction Officer	1	
Total		**100**

Annex VII

Numbers of regular staff in the departments/offices where type II gratis personnel performed functions on 30 September 1998

Department or office	*Professional and higher categories*	*General Service and related categories*	*Total staff*	*Number of gratis personnel*	*Ratio of gratis personnel to staff (percentage)*
DPKO	116	178	294	100	34.0
International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia	255	267	522	14	2.7
International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda	173	294	467	12	2.6
OCHA	99	217	316	2	0.6
UNOIP	12	38	50	1	2.0
UNON	70	304	374	5	1.3
Total	**725**	**1 298**	**2 023**	**134**	**6.6**

Annex VIII

United Nations Office at Nairobi type II gratis personnel first reported in November 1998

Country of nationality	*Functions/duties*	*Office*	*Begin date*	*End date*	*Sept. 1997*	*Dec. 1997*	*Mar. 1998*	*June 1998*	*Sept. 1998*
Germany	Provide scientific advice on ecological and zoological matters	UNEP/Bonn	17/10/1993	30/06/1998	X	X	X		
France	Provide expertise in human settlements	UNCHS/Nairobi	20/02/1995	31/12/1996					
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Provide expertise in human settlements	UNCHS/Nairobi	09/12/1995	08/11/1996					
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Advise on the Programme of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals	UNEP/Bonn	01/01/1996	30/09/1998	X	X	X	X	
Norway	Coordinate various activities and workshops	UNEP/Paris	19/02/1996	24/02/1999	X	X	X	X	X
Republic of Korea	Provide expertise	UNEP/Nairobi	12/09/1996	17/03/1998	X	X			
Germany[a]	Provide advisory functions to the Regional Office for Europe	UNEP/Geneva	15/01/1997	22/03/1999	X	X	X	X	X
Belarus[a]	Provide technical assistance as database analyst to the Water Branch	UNEP/Nairobi	01/06/1997	30/06/1999	X	X	X	X	X
Germany	Help establish goals for the implementation of Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at the Local Level (APELL) throughout the world	UNEP/Paris	29/09/1997	28/09/1998	X	X	X	X	
Germany	Provide assistance and advice on policy, programme, administration and communications	UNEP/Nairobi	09/02/1998	10/06/1998			X		
Germany	Provide assistance and advice on policy, programme, administration and communications	UNEP/Nairobi	09/02/1998	10/06/1998			X		
Germany	Promote the implementation of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals agreement with the German Government	UNEP/Bonn	04/04/1998	30/09/1998				X	
Netherlands	Provide advisory functions to the Regional Office for Europe	UNEP/Geneva	17/04/1998	17/09/1998				X	
France[a]	Monitor the development of environmental issues	UNEP/Paris	18/05/1998	17/05/1999				X	X
Norway	Develop recommendations for the revitalization of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)	UNCHS/Nairobi	01/09/1998	31/12/1998					X

Country of nationality	*Functions/duties*	*Office*	*Begin date*	*End date*	*Sept. 1997*	*Dec. 1997*	*Mar. 1998*	*June 1998*	*Sept. 1998*
Germany[a]	Develop an outreach programme to build public awareness on the issues of migratory species in Germany	UNEP/Bonn	01/10/1998	30/09/1999					
United Kingdom[a]	Develop project proposals for UNEP's financial management and monitor their implementation	UNEP/Bonn	05/10/1998	30/09/2000					
United States of America[a]	Not available	UNEP/Nairobi	25/10/1998	24/10/2000					
Quarterly totals					**7**	**7**	**8**	**8**	**5**

[a] Type II gratis personnel for whom the proposed contract duration extends beyond February 1999.

United Nations A/53/716

General Assembly

Distr.: General
30 November 1998

Original: English

Fifty-third session
Agenda item 39
Question of Palestine

Letter dated 24 November 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement outlining assistance provided by Japan to the Palestinians, as indicated by our Prime Minister, Keizo Obuchi, at his meeting with President Clinton of the United States of America on 20 November 1998. The content of the document will be formally announced at the Conference to Support Middle East Peace and Development, to be held in Washington, D.C., on 30 November. I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 39.

(*Signed*) Yukio **Satoh**
Permanent Representative of Japan
to the United Nations

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Annex

Statement outlining assistance provided by Japan to the Palestinians, dated 20 November 1998

1. Pledge of $200 million

   - Prime Minister Obuchi pledged today at the meeting with President Clinton to provide up to $200 million in assistance to the Palestinians for the next two years. Japan has disbursed approximately $372 million since 1993 until today over five years. Japan is one of the largest donors to the Palestinians, along with the United States of America and the European Union.

2. Priority areas of Japan's assistance

   - Japan's assistance has following four priority areas:

     (a) Human resources and social development, in particular in the field of health care, education and humanitarian assistance;

     (b) Building of basic infrastructure;

     (c) Financial contribution to the start-up cost of the Palestinian Authority;

     (d) Employment promotion upon the closure of the West Bank and Gaza.

3. Channels of assistance

   - Japan's assistance to date through international organizations such as the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency in the Near East has amounted to approximately $268 million. Japan has implemented 11 projects of direct assistance to the Palestinians, valued at approximately $94 million in total, since the beginning of the financial year 1995.

4. Technical assistance

   - Regarding Japan's technical assistance programme, 446 Palestinians have participated to date in the training programmes offered by Japan since 1993. These courses addressed administrative capacity-building and human development in various fields, including environment and education.

5. Examples of completed and ongoing projects

   (a) Employment generation projects

– Environmental reshaping of the Gaza Strip	$5 million
– Gaza municipal infrastructure	$5 million
– Nablus paving and tiling	$2 million
– Agricultural development in Hebron district	$4 million

   (b) Assistance to the start-up cost for the Palestinian Authority

– Start-up costs for the Palestinian Fire Authority	$3 million
– Start-up costs for the Palestinian Administration	$7.4 million

(c) Governance- and institution-building of the Palestinian Authority

- Residential housing for the Police Force in the Gaza Strip $10 million
- Transfer of Knowledge through Expatriate Nationals (TOKTEN) $1.5 million
- Public administration training for civil servants $2 million
- Tripartite training programmes at the training centres in Egypt and Jordan

(d) Basic infrastructure projects

- Upgrading of the Khan Younis water supply system $4 million
- School extensions in the West Bank $2 million
- Upgrading of the Tulkarem hospital in the West Bank $4 million
- Building of Jericho stadium $2.5 million

(e) Assistance to Palestinian refugees

- Construction of a new Gaza preparatory boys school $1 million
- Medical aid expansion in Gaza $0.41 million

(f) Direct assistance

- Improvement of medical equipment in the Gaza Strip $13 million
- Construction of Jericho hospital $18.6 million
- Construction of school facilities for basic education in the Gaza Strip $16.3 million